

NOTICE OF A PRE-HEARING OPEN HOUSE AND
CORRIDOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF U.S. 74 FROM
U.S. 129 IN ROBBINSVILLE TO N.C. 28 IN STECOAH

TIP. No.: A-9 B & C

Graham County

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a pre-hearing open house and corridor public hearing regarding the proposed relocation of U.S. 74, from U.S. 129 in Robbinsville to N.C. 28 in Stecoah, on **Tuesday, May 17, 2011, at Robbinsville High School**, located at 301 Sweetwater Road, Robbinsville, 28771, as follows:

Pre-Hearing Open House: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. (Commons Area)
Formal Public Hearing – begins at 7:00 p.m. (Auditorium)

Maps will be on display and NCDOT representatives will be available in an informal setting (open house) to answer questions relative to the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments and/or questions will be provided and is encouraged. Citizens may attend at any time during the above mentioned hours.

The formal presentation of the project (corridor public hearing) begins at 7:00 p.m. It will consist of an explanation of the proposed corridor alternatives, what the proposed road will look like, and right of way and relocation requirements / procedures. The US Army Corp of Engineers and the NC Division of Water Quality requested that options for improving existing N.C. 143 and N.C. 28 be evaluated as another alternative; the results of the evaluation will also be explained. Details will be provided as to why, after evaluating these study results, Alternative YX remains NCDOT's recommended alternative.

Following the formal presentation of the project at 7:00 p.m., the hearing will be open for statements, questions and/or comments. Anyone wishing to speak at the public hearing may register during the pre-hearing workshop hours or up until the formal presentation begins. Those registered to speak will be called in the order in which they registered. Citizens will have three-minutes to speak in order to allow the opportunity for everyone who has registered to speak. Additional spoken comments will be received after those who previously registered to speak have completed their comments.

NCDOT proposes to construct a new, four-lane divided U.S. 74 highway. The B & C segments of the U.S. 74 Relocation project (A-9 ABCD) represent the middle portion of the project that extends from U.S. 19/74/129 in Andrews to Wattia Road (State Road 1121) in Almond. The proposed highway is about 9.9 miles in length and will require additional right-of-way acquisition of homes and/or businesses. There are currently two alternative corridor locations under consideration.

Maps showing the proposed locations and designs of the project, as well as a copy of the approved environmental document - Draft Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement - are available for public review at the NCDOT Division 14 Office, 253 Webster Road in Sylva; the NCDOT Resident Engineer's Office, 191 Robbinsville Road, Suite A, in Andrews; and at the Graham County Public Library, 80 Knight Street in Robbinsville. The maps may also be viewed online at: <http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/US74Relocation/>

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Ed Lewis, NCDOT Human Environment Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, by phone at (919) 707-6078 or via e-mail at elewis@ncdot.gov. Additional written comments may be submitted until June 20, 2011.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who want to participate in the open house and/or public hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Mr. Lewis as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.